TARRANTS ASKS MOVE TO PRISON

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Transfer from County Jail Is Discussed

MERIDIAN, Miss. (AP) — Thomas Albert Tarrants III, convicted and sentenced to 30 years in prison for the attempted bombing of a prominent Jewish leader's home, will probably be transferred to the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman next week.

A defense attorney for Tarrants, Roy Pitts of Meridian, said Friday the young Mobile man has asked to be transferred to the penitentiary to await the outcome of his appeal to the state supreme court.

Tarrants said earlier he felt there were "better facilities" at the sprawling prison facility, and Lauderdale County Sheriff Alton Allen, in charge of tight security around Tarrants, said he certainly would have no objections to the move.

Most defendants in Mississippi remain in jail in the county where they are convicted pending their appeal. However, the state recently began allowing them to start serving sentences while appeals are underway. Time served in county jail does not apply toward eligibility for parole.

Pitts also said that he expects a hearing Monday morning on a motion asking Lauderdale County Circuit Judge Lester Williamson to reconsider the question of whether Tarrants is a pauper and unable to pay for his appeal.

The defense attorney indicated he will call a federal alcohol tax unit officer in an attempt to prove Tarrants' automobile has been confiscated and will be disposed of by the federal government.

The auto was originally identified as being registered to Joe Danile Hawkins, a co-defendant in the attempted bombing case, but Tarrants testified Thursday he had a bill of sale from Hawkins in the car at the time of his arrest.

Judge Williamson held Thursday that Tarrants in fact did own the car and, as a property owner, could not be declared a pauper.